

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action issued on September 11, 2003 (Paper No. 5) in connection with the above-identified application, and are being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for filing the response.

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, and 16-24 are pending in the present application as currently amended. Claims 3 and 15 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 13 respectively, and claims 4 and 16 have been amended to adjust dependencies. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the Application by the Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected the claims of the application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being obvious over Knox (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0103605). Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(e) rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites a status reporting system (SRS) for automatically reporting updated status of a project to an interested party based on status information stored in a status system. The SRS is communicatively coupled to the status system and has a monitoring device that contacts the status system to determine whether such status system has new status information stored therein and if so obtains such new status information from the status system. An internal mail device receives the obtained status information, ascertains from the received status information the interested party, locates an electronic mail address for the interested party, formats the received status information into a piece of electronic mail which includes the received status information and the located

electronic mail address, and forwards the piece of electronic mail to the interested party by way of an electronic mail service.

Significantly, claim 1 as amended also recites that the SRS further comprises an ID database. The status system tags the status information stored therein with an ID identifying the interested party, and the ID database includes a record having the ID and the electronic mail address for the interested party. Thus, the internal mail device locates the electronic mail address for the interested party from the ID database based on the ID tagged to the received status information.

Independent claim 13 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1 but in the form of a method.

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to delivering updates on status as obtained from a status system to customers or others interested in receiving such status updates. As may be appreciated, it is commonplace to maintain such status information in a status system for in-house use by a manufacturer, contract manager or the like. One such status system is Work and Force Administration system, designed and/or marketed by Telcordia Technologies (formerly Bellcore) of Morristown, New Jersey.

However, such status information has not as yet been regularly delivered to an outside customer for whom a product is being manufactured, a contract is being managed, etc. Oftentimes, such customer would appreciate if not demand that such status information be available to it, too, almost instantaneously. However, and as is to be readily appreciated, providing such customer with access to the manufacturer's status system raises serious security issues, among other things. As a result, such access is not usually provided, even

though this may in turn require that the manufacturer constantly update the customer on the status of the product under manufacture.

Thus, in embodiments of the present invention, a method and a system are provided to interface to the status system so as to automatically notify the customer of updates in status without providing the customer with direct access to the manufacturer's status system. In such method and system, each customer is represented by an ID, the status system tags each piece of status information stored therein with an ID identifying the corresponding customer, and the ID database includes a record having each ID and a corresponding electronic mail address for the customer. Thus, an internal mail device locates the electronic mail address for a customer from the ID database based on the ID tagged to a particular piece of received status information, and sends such status information to such customer at such address.

The Knox reference discloses a system that sends out status information to a client by way of e-mail among other devices. In the Knox system, for each identified client, a status database is scanned for status information relating to such client and such status information is then delivered to such client in the form of a message. Thus, the Knox system searches the database based on the client and then notifies same. In contrast, in embodiments of the present invention, the database is searched for each new piece of status information and each such new piece of status information is then matched to a customer by way of an ID and delivered to same based on the ID as located in an ID database, where such ID database includes an electronic mail address for the customer and corresponding to the ID. Put another way, embodiments of the present invention start with the status information and work to the customer, while the Knox system in contrast starts with the client and works toward the status information.

More particularly, the Knox system does not have an internal mail device that receives status information and that ascertains from the received status information an interested party, as is required by claims 1 and 13, but instead starts with an interested party and then searches for status information corresponding to same. Moreover, the Knox system does not disclose an ID database, or that a status system tags status information stored therein with an ID identifying the interested party, or that the ID database includes a record having the ID and the electronic mail address for the interested party, as is also required by claims 1 and 13. Thus, the Knox system also does not locate the electronic mail address for the interested party from the ID database based on the ID tagged to the received status information, as is further required by claims 1 and 13.

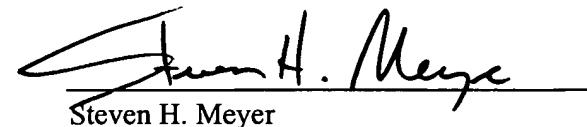
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Knox reference cannot be applied to anticipate independent claims 1 or 13 or any claims depending therefrom, including claims 2, 4-12, 14, and 16-24. As a result, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application including claims 1, 2, 4-14, and 16-24 is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0006  
Application No.: 09/468,447  
Office Action Dated: September 11, 2003

PATENT

Date: December 10, 2003



Steven H. Meyer  
Registration No. 37,189

Woodcock Washburn LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor  
Philadelphia PA 19103  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439